

Hobbies

What's proper for coin dealers to wear?

By Roger Boye

Coin dealers who sell their wares at conventions of the American Numismatic Association also should watch what they wear.

The ANA Board of Governors has voted to encourage dealers, as well as the ANA staff and officers, "to dress in a professional manner which is appropriate to maintain a sound, businesslike atmosphere."

The vote follows action taken last summer—and later repealed—that would have required men to wear coats and ties, and women to be "suitably attired" when working behind bourse tables at ANA conventions.

"[T]he board is unanimous in the belief that something must be done about the bedraggled, unkempt and downright scruffy clothing worn by a few dealers holding ANA bourse tables," wrote ANA governor Donn

Pearlman in a *Coin World* column. The 32,000-member ANA is the nation's largest organization of coin collectors.

Legislation calling for a circulating dollar coin to replace paper \$1 bills probably will be "on hold" for several months as lawmakers in Washington await the results of a new study.

Among other things, the U. S. General Accounting Office will attempt to analyze how the elimination of paper dollars would affect businesses and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

Rep. Richard H. Lehman, D-Calif., chairman of the House Subcommittee on Consumer Affairs and Coinage, also has asked the GAO to study the effects of phasing out one-cent coins. Some experts believe the government could save millions of dollars each year in the cost of making and counting money if the cent

were eliminated and prices rounded to the nearest nickel.

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U. S. "greenbacks" eventually could get a computer-age facelift to help fight the war on drugs.

Under a proposal in Congress, the U. S. Treasury would be forced to study how optical scanning devices on currency could help police trace the serial numbers of paper money that's used in the drug trade.

Special equipment would scan the optical devices on bills that pass through Federal Reserve banks and compare those numbers with money that entered circulation during undercover drug operations, according to a spokesman for Sen. John F. Kerry, D-Mass., who introduced the legislation.

The proposal has passed the Senate as an amendment to another bill and is now in the U. S. House.